

secondary to promoting their own political agenda. Are the Democrats so scared of George Bush that they would inject politics into the census, the very week people are filling out their forms and mailing them in? Sadly the answer can only be yes.

Are the Democrats so afraid that we will retain the House in the upcoming election that they would risk alienating people from participating in the census? Once again, the sad answer is yes.

While it is no secret that our parties and the presidential candidates differ on the use of estimated numbers for purposes of adjustment, the fact that you could not simply promote the census during this most crucial of weeks is very disappointing.

Democrats have stated all along that they want everyone to fill out their forms to assist the Bureau in getting the best count ever. I now wonder whether this was merely a ruse you maintained to harbor another objective. The Democrat message on Wednesday to the American people was "Don't worry about filling out your form—let the government estimate where you are." The effect of these statements is to undermine a good mail-back response rate. There is a very good chance that statistical sampling will be found illegal for redistricting as it was found illegal by the Supreme Court for reapportionment. Supporters of sampling are selling people a false bill of goods.

Let's face reality for a moment—the Supreme Court ruled last January that sampling cannot be used for apportionment and that the Census Bureau must conduct a full enumeration. Therefore your attack on Presidential candidate George Bush is ludicrous. And as we both know, the National Academy of Sciences has yet to endorse the complex ACE estimation plan. In fact, at last month's NAS meeting there was much debate on both sides of the issue and it was clear that there was uncertainty. To suggest that the NAS has endorsed the specifics of ACE is to mislead the American people.

In conclusion, I think that those that participated in last night's ambush on Republicans have done far more to hurt the census efforts than you all may believe. Many Americans are concerned about the intrusiveness of the long form. Even the Bureau acknowledges that many of their phone calls and emails are complaints. All offices are fielding numerous calls from upset constituents. In fact, you could not have picked a worse day in a worse week to make your purely partisan political diatribe.

Last night, on the House floor, you had an opportunity to do one of two things: Promote the census and the importance of mailing back the forms, or use the opportunity for political grandstanding. Unfortunately, you chose the latter. To insert the debate over sampling and to take cheap shots at Governor Bush will not motivate one single person to fill out their census form and mail it in.

I can only hope that American people can see through your partisan motives and rhetoric and realize that the answer to their needs will not be met by a statistical silver bullet and that despite your obvious attempts to dissuade them, will fill out their census forms.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 376, OPEN-MARKET REORGANIZATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNI- CATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of the conference agreement on satellite communications reform. This is an important bill that will revise our laws to encourage more competition in the global satellite communication services market and deliver more choices to consumers. I strongly urge its adoption.

The conference agreement eliminates antiquated statutory barriers that have prevented the purchase of COMSAT. I am very pleased that the conferees dropped the Level IV direct access rules which would have unfairly taken value away from COMSAT shareholders. It also repeals the ownership cap on COMSAT without conditions, rather than making it contingent upon unrelated events as the House bill would have. In addition, the bill sets forth an effective roadmap for INTELSAT and Inmarsat to transition from intergovernmental organizations to truly pro-competitive, privatized entities.

I want to stress that while the bill gives the FCC authority to assess and evaluate INTELSAT's and Inmarsat's privatization efforts, nothing in this bill gives the FCC authority to control the business operations of these entities after they have attained a pro-competitive privatization. The bill will encourage the transition of INTELSAT and Inmarsat into normal, commercial entities so the global satellite market will be more competitive. Once privatization is achieved, INTELSAT and Inmarsat will be regulated by the FCC like any other business in the global satellite communications market.

Again, I am pleased that we will finally pass a bill that will truly level the playing field in the satellite communications services market, and I commend the Conferees for producing such a good, bipartisan bill.

NEW TESTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a copy of a letter to the editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel written by Mr. Steve Cywinski, one of my constituents from South Milwaukee. I submit this letter to be included in the RECORD.

NEW TESTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

I was very impressed with the article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Sen. William Proxmire ("Proxmire honored for sharp eye on money," Dec. 8). He served from 1957-'89. His mission was to cut wasteful spending. He was credited with 168 Golden Fleece awards. My question: Is Bill Proxmire the only one of some 500 politicians in Washington, DC, who had his eyes and ears open?

I would propose hearing and eye tests for politicians before being sworn into office.

STEVE CYWINSKI,
South Milwaukee.

PROPOSED ACCOUNTING RULE CHANGES FOR TECHNOLOGY MERGERS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, in today's rapidly growing technology and information markets, the need for maintaining an accounting system that is best suited to handle the growing trend of technology sector mergers is key. The "pooling" system of accounting has made possible some of the largest mergers of our time; without this system the unifications of Netscape/AOL, Citicorp/Travelers, NationsBank/Bank of America, and Daimler/Chrysler quite possibly would have never taken place, reducing innovation and benefits to consumers.

Current regulations allow many high-tech companies to take advantage of this "pooling" system of accounting, which allows corporations to easily merge without attaching a goodwill accounting charge. This is the amount paid in an acquisition that is added to the fair market value of a company's tangible assets. If the Financial Accounting Standards Board has its way, it would require that all mergers be viewed not as the melding of separate entities, but as a direct purchase, forcing companies to accept the purchase method of accounting. This system worked for the bricks and mortar corporations of the past, but in the age of high-tech companies whose value lies in information, the purchase method of accounting has no place.

Forcing these high-tech/high performance companies to use the direct purchase accounting system will only serve to stifle growth and limit our country's edge in this information age. We should take every opportunity to support and ensure continued innovation and expansion in this technology sector that has done so much to energize our economy. This can be accomplished if we say yes to the continuation of pooling mergers, and no to attempts to further regulate this important sector of our economy.

GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK HONOR MICHAEL TIGUE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Michael F. Tigue. This year the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick will honor Mr. Tigue as "Man of the Year" at their 86th annual St. Patrick's Day banquet. I am honored to have been asked to participate in this prestigious event.

Michael Tigue is a lifelong resident of Hughestown, in my District in Pennsylvania. In the early days of the coal industry, young boys

were used on the breakers to sort coal. It was backbreaking work that paid pennies a day. Michael Tigue was one of these lads while attending school. He later went on to work at the Lehigh Valley Railroad and then as a pipefitter. He is a member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 524, the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Tigue has been married to his wife Joan for 56 years. They are the proud parents of four, Thomas, Mariclaire, Michael, and Kevin. Their son, State Representative Tom Tigue, is a longtime friend and colleague of mine.

The Tiges boast 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and are members of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hughestown.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud this year's choice for the Friendly Sons' "Man of the Year" award and send my sincere best wishes to Mr. Tigue and his family.

TAIWAN'S SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Taiwan's second presidential election there has been much talk about China's use of force against Taiwan. I am concerned that the voters of Taiwan may be intimidated in this election and their vote may be influenced. We should let the electoral process work itself through. The people of Taiwan deserve the right to exercise their judgment in this democratic election for one of the three candidates.

While we all agree that there is one China, reunification talks between Taiwan and Beijing should be conducted freely and the two sides should have equal footing in any negotiations. I urge all involved in this process to let the voters in Taiwan elect their new President on March 18. After all, peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits are in the best interests of everyone.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an increase in the minimum wage. Last year in my state of Florida, more than half a million people earned the minimum wage, a full 10% of the state's employees. Many of these workers are women, and most are adults who are trying to support a family. Don't be fooled by the claims that these workers are all teenagers. In fact, seventy-two percent of our nation's minimum wage workers are adults, and their family incomes are well below the national average. For a family of four to live above the poverty threshold, which is \$17,000 a year, the minimum wage would have to be increased to \$8.19 an hour!

Since the 1980s, real earnings for our nation's workers have declined by 12 percent,

while the wealthiest 20 percent swallowed up almost all of the increases. It's ironic that productivity, profits, executive pay and the stock market are rising, but the incomes of the poorest working families in our nation are not.

The last time we raised the minimum wage, 10 million American workers benefitted and no jobs were lost. The 1996 minimum wage increase provided a pay raise to 10 million workers, and since then the economy has continued to speed ahead, creating thousands of new jobs.

H.R. 3846 shortchanges minimum wage workers by stretching out a \$1 an hour increase over 3 years, making low wage workers wait as long as possible before receiving the full increase.

In addition, this bill is loaded down with tax breaks for big business, and by doing so it threatens Social Security and other invaluable programs! Not surprisingly, 73% of the beneficiaries of these tax breaks are the wealthiest 1% of our citizens! This is another case of Reverse Robin Hood—stealing from the poor and working people, and giving tax breaks to the wealthy.

The Joint Committee on Taxation reports that this will cost our country \$123 billion over the next ten years!

I urge my colleagues to vote for a fair minimum wage bill and support the Democratic substitute. Stand up for our country's hard working minimum wage earners and vote "no" on the Republican measures.

DALLAS STARS—1999 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the members of the North Texas Congressional Delegation honor today in Washington, DC, the 1999 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Champions—the Dallas Stars.

The Dallas Stars electrified all of Texas en route to winning the oldest trophy in North America and along the way these champs gave us some unforgettable performances on the ice. Whether it was the clutch play of center Mike Modano, the acrobatic saves of veteran goalie Eddie Belfour, the crushing defense of captain Derian Hatcher, the leadership of MVP Joe Nieuwendyk, or the stick handling of Brett Hull, who scored the Cup-winning goal—it seemed like every game a different Star player stepped up and inspired the team to victory.

Further, we would like to commend team owner Tom Hicks, President Jim Lites, General Manager Bob Gainey, and Coach Ken Hitchcock for giving all Texans a hockey team to be proud of and showing that hard work and perseverance do pay off. Many in this Nation scoffed when the Stars announced in 1993 that they were bringing professional hockey to Dallas, Texas. And now, just seven years later, Texas is the home to Stanley Cup Champions who have inspired many of our youth to participate in this team sport.

Again, on behalf of Congressmen DICK ARMEY, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, SAM JOHNSON, and PETE SESSIONS, congratulations from the North Texas Congressional Delegation

and a hearty Texas thank you to the mighty Dallas Stars, 1999 Stanley Cup Champions.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JUDITH KIRCHMAN

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend my warmest thanks and my most sincere best wishes to my District Director, Judith Kirchman, who will be retiring in June after 20 years of service to the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina.

Judith, a native of Fayetteville, NC, began work in June 1980, for my predecessor, the Honorable Charlie Rose. During the past 20 years, Judith has performed superbly in various positions and tasks. From assisting citizens in their dealings with Federal agencies to being that "point person" on natural disasters to strategic advice and counsel, Judith has been both resourceful and thoughtful.

When I think of Judith's commitment to the public good, the words "spirit, sacrifice, and service" come to mind. Judith's positive spirit has always been to do the task at hand—a spirit that inspires others to achieve. Judith's sacrifice in time and commitment has been to make southeastern North Carolina a better place to live and work—a sacrifice that meant doing the right thing and not being concerned with who gets the credit.

Pearl S. Buck once said, "To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and free mind." Judith, there is no question that your 20 years of service have been the epitome of this statement. Service to others has been the embodiment of your life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

As you enter this next stage of your life, I am confident that your talents and energy will continue to be of benefit to many. Through your commitment to your church, your family, and your community, a shining jewel you will continue to be.

Bart Giamatti, the former president of Yale University, said it well in 1987,

Be mindful of what we share and must share; not the least of which is that each of our hopes for a full and decent life depends upon others hoping the same and all of us sustaining each other's hopes . . . If there is no striving for the good life for any of us, there cannot be a good life for any of us.

Judith, on behalf of the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina, thank you so much for the good life you have given to so many. Now, you enjoy the same, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you always.

SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under